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Social and human rights questions: human rights

Letter dated 27 July 2000 from the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I refer to the letter addressed to you on 22 June 2000 by the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations (E/2000/107) concerning Economic and Social Council decision 2000/218 entitled "Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights", which is self-explanatory.

As noted by the Permanent Representative, owing to an unfortunate technical error by the secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights, the text which was before the Council at the time of the adoption of decision 2000/218 was slightly different from what had been finally agreed by the Commission at the time of the adoption of Commission resolution 2000/9. I fully agree with the Permanent Representative of Germany that there were indeed slight technical inaccuracies between the two texts. The text of Commission resolution 2000/9 is contained in chapter II of the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session (E/2000/23), which is now before the Council. The same edited text constituting Council decision 2000/218 is contained in the report of the Commission, and is reproduced below for ease of reference:

> "The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/9 of 17 April 2000, endorses the Commission's decision to appoint, for a period of three years, a special rapporteur whose mandate will focus on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, as reflected in article 25, paragraph 1, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 11, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and article 27, paragraph 3, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and on the right to non-discrimination as reflected in article 14, paragraph 2 (h), of the

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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and article 5 (e) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

"The Council also endorses the Commission's request to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the necessary resources for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur."

On the basis of the above, I should like to request that the Council take note of this technical error made by the secretariat of the Commission and that the final version of the published compilation of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council in the year 2000 be adjusted accordingly. I should also like to request that the present letter be issued as a document of the Council for its consideration and appropriate action.

(*Signed*) Shambhu Ram **Simkhada**
Chairperson of the fifty-sixth session
of the Commission on Human Rights